

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 1, 6, 11 and 16 and new claim 17 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A figure selection method of selecting a figure formed by a plurality of figure elements, comprising:

designating one of the figure elements; and

retrieving another figure element which is ~~connected with and/or is regarded to be connected with related to the designated figure element without requiring that the other figure element be connected with the designated figure element.~~

2. (ORIGINAL) The figure selection method according to claim 1 wherein said retrieving retrieves figure elements in a neighborhood of the designated figure element.

3. (ORIGINAL) The figure selection method according to claim 1 wherein said retrieving further retrieves figure elements adjacent to the retrieved figure elements.

4. (ORIGINAL) The figure selection method according to claim 3 wherein said retrieving performs a retrieval process a predetermined number of times.

5. (ORIGINAL) The figure selection method according to claim 1 further comprising:
displaying the figure elements retrieved by said retrieving in a style different from that of other figure elements.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A figure selection device selecting a figure formed by a plurality of figure elements, comprising:

a figure element designation unit designating one of the figure elements; and

a figure element retrieval unit retrieving other figure elements related to which are

~~connected with and/or regarded to be connected with the designated figure element without requiring that the other figure elements be connected with the designated figure element.~~

7. (ORIGINAL) The figure selection device according to claim 6 wherein the figure element retrieval unit retrieves a figure element in a neighborhood of the designated figure element.

8. (ORIGINAL) The figure selection device according to claim 6 wherein the figure element retrieval unit further retrieves a figure element adjacent to the retrieved figure element.

9. (ORIGINAL) The figure selection device according to claim 8 wherein the figure element retrieval unit performs a retrieval process a predetermined number of times.

10. (ORIGINAL) The figure selection device according to claim 6 further comprising: a display unit displaying the figure element retrieved by the figure element retrieval unit in a style different from that of other figure elements.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium storing a figure selection program selecting a figure formed by a plurality of figure elements, comprising:
designating one of the figure elements; and
~~retrieving another figure element which is connected with and/or is regarded to be connected with related to the designated figure element without requiring that the other figure element be connected with the designated figure element.~~

12. (ORIGINAL) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 11 wherein said retrieving retrieves a figure element in a neighborhood of the designated figure element.

13. (ORIGINAL) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 11 wherein said retrieving further retrieves a figure element adjacent to the retrieved figure element.

14. (ORIGINAL) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 13 wherein said retrieving performs a retrieval process at a predetermined number of times.

15. (ORIGINAL) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 11 further comprising:

displaying the figure element retrieved by said retrieving in a style different from that of other figure elements.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A figure selection method of selecting a figure having elements, comprising:

defining relationship of the elements of the figure; and

automatically retrieving elements of the figure in accordance with said defined relationship of the elements upon selection of one of the elements in the relationship without requiring that said one of the elements be connected with the retrieved elements.

17. (NEW) A figure selection method, comprising:

defining arrangement data indicative of an arrangement of elements that form a corresponding figure based on a relationship of the elements including unconnected elements of a first figure and a second figure; and

selecting an element of the first figure in response to a selection of at least one element of the second figure based on the arrangement data.